

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

DMB
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Contact: A. Corbin

[Docket No. 01D-0545]

"Guidance for Industry: Recommendations for Assessment of Donor Suitability and Blood and Blood Product Safety in Cases of Possible Exposure to Anthrax;"

Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a document entitled "Guidance for Industry: Recommendations for Assessment of Donor Suitability and Blood and Blood Product Safety in Cases of Possible Exposure to Anthrax" dated October 2001. The guidance document provides the current recommendations for assessment of donor suitability and product safety for donors potentially exposed to anthrax. The guidance document applies to Whole Blood, blood components (including recovered plasma) and Source Plasma collections intended for use in transfusion or for further manufacturing into injectable products.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on agency guidances at any time.

ADDRESSES: Submit written requests for single copies of this guidance to the Office of Communication, Training, and Manufacturers Assistance (HFM-40), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-1448. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist the office in processing your requests. The document may also be obtained by mail by calling the CBER Voice Information System at 1-800-835-4709 or 301-827-1800, or by fax by calling the FAX Information System at 1-888-CBER-FAX or 301-827-3844. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the guidance document.

Submit written comments on the document to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Valerie A. Butler, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-17), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-1448, 301-827-6210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

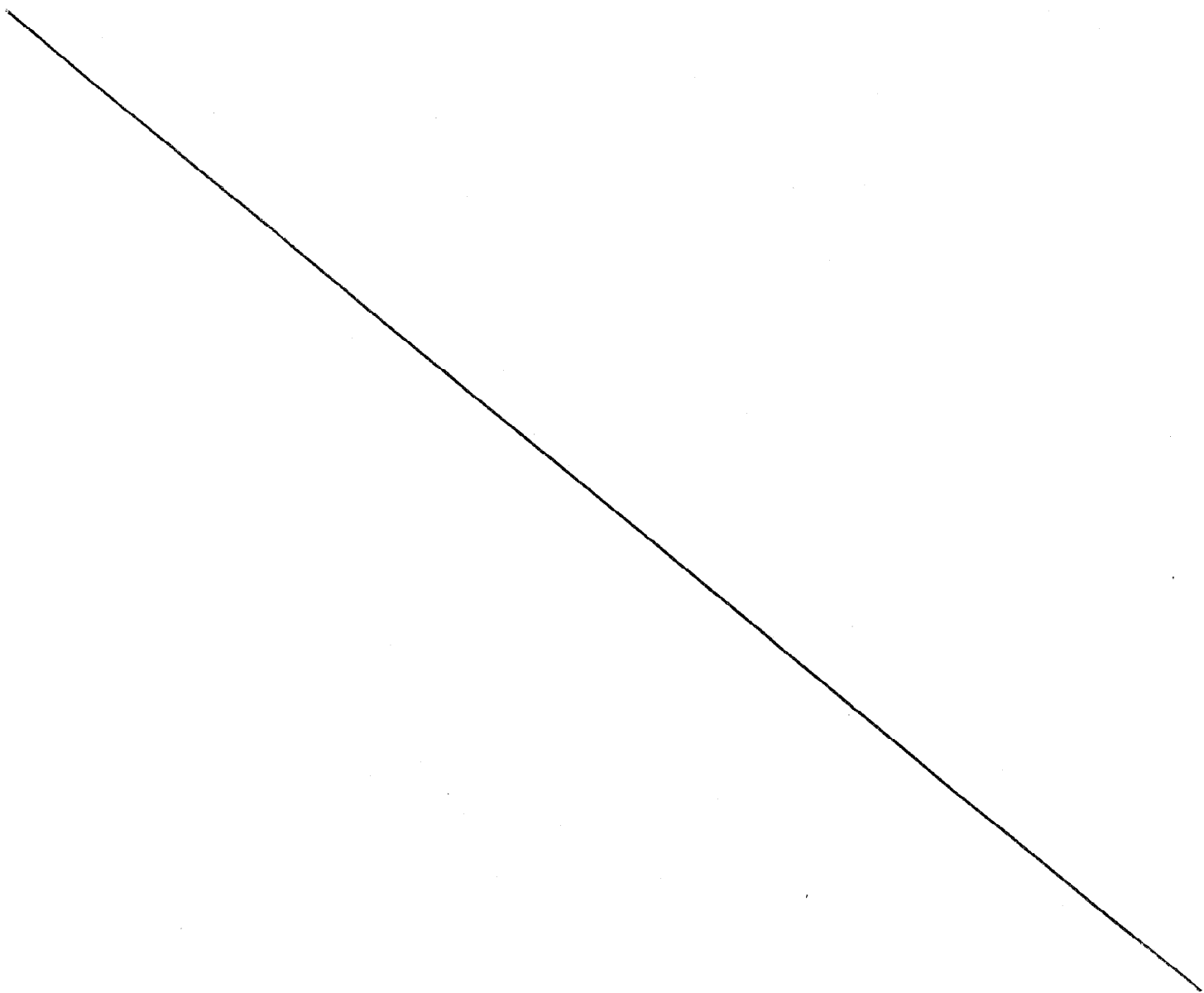
I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a document entitled "Guidance for Industry: Recommendations for Assessment of Donor Suitability and Blood and Blood Product Safety in Cases of Possible Exposure to Anthrax" dated October 2001. The guidance document provides the current recommendations for assessment of donor suitability and product safety for donors potentially exposed to *Bacillus anthracis*, the agent of anthrax. The guidance document applies to Whole Blood, blood components (including recovered plasma) and Source Plasma collections intended for use in transfusion or for further manufacturing into injectable products. FDA developed the recommendations in the guidance document in consultation with other Public Health Service agencies and with the Blood Safety Committee of the Department of Health and Human Services. Recommendations addressed in the guidance include: Donor deferral, product quarantine and retrieval, and notification of prior transfusion recipients.

This guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). This guidance document represents the agency's current thinking on recommendations for assessment of donor suitability and product safety for donors potentially exposed to anthrax. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirement of the applicable statutes and regulations.

II. Comments

The agency is soliciting public comment, but is implementing this guidance document immediately because of public health concerns. Interested persons may, at any time, submit written or electronic comments to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) regarding this guidance document. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except individuals may submit one copy. Comments should be identified with the docket number found in the brackets in the heading of this document. A copy of the document and received comments are available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

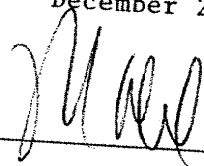


III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at either <http://www.fda.gov/cber/guidelines.htm> or <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/default.htm>.

Dated: 12/26/01

December 26, 2001.



Margaret M. Dotzel,
Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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